

Beaver Damage Control

Guidelines for people with beaver damage problems



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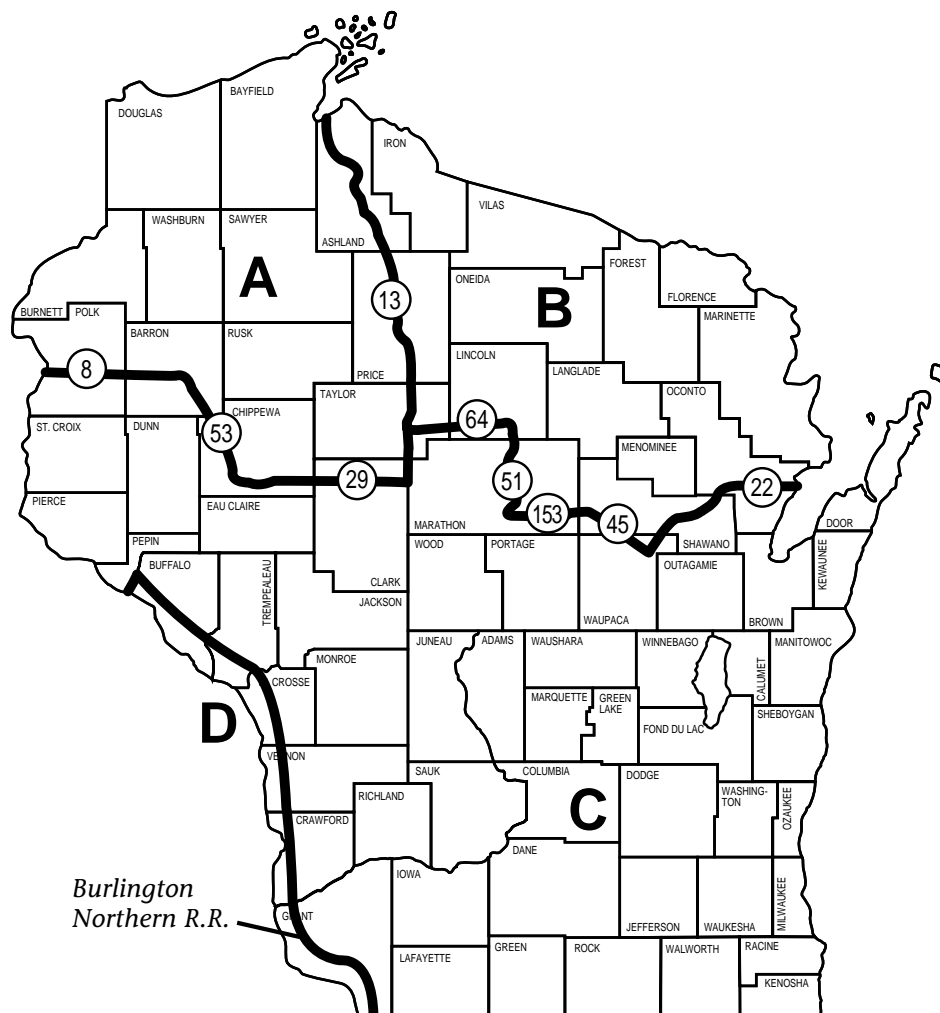


Bureau of Wildlife Management
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Map Of Beaver Management Zones

Zone

- A** High beaver population and excellent beaver habitat. Relatively few people-and-beaver conflicts occur. Stable beaver population is desired.
- B** Highest beaver density in the state. Trout stream protection takes precedent over protection of beaver. Reduced beaver population is a goal.
- C** Moderate to low beaver population; habitat is considered average. Few people-and-beaver conflicts occur. Stable beaver population is desired.
- D** Moderate to low beaver population. Beaver population increase is desired to provide more waterfowl habitat.



DNR Beaver Management Plan

Beaver, like many other species of wildlife, are considered good or bad depending upon who you talk to. Some people enjoy and appreciate beaver while others consider beaver destructive pests. Understanding and balancing both points of view is a goal of the DNR's beaver management policy.

The Beaver Management Plan

In 1990, a revised beaver management plan became effective. The plan was created by a DNR team that included wildlife and fisheries managers, foresters, and wardens. Considerable input from members of the general public interested in beaver management also helped create the plan.

Beaver Management Zones

Recognizing that beaver are considered both beneficial and detrimental, the beaver management plan divides the state into different zones for beaver population management. One goal of "zoning" is to reduce beaver populations in zones where they are in greatest conflict with human interests. A second goal is to allow and encourage populations where there is greater tolerance and benefits associated with these animals. The state's different management zones are shown on the map on the previous page. Harvest pressure will be increased or decreased depending on the current population status and the population goal of a zone.

Beaver Population Control

Beaver have litters averaging four young each spring. Beavers have a natural population limiting mechanism, habitat. When there is not enough available habitat the older kits do not leave home and the parents have smaller new litters. However, beaver populations are currently growing because beaver are finding a great deal of suitable habitat and are colonizing new areas.

There are several ways to control beaver so that the population goals for a specific beaver management zone can be met. The Natural Resources Board policy for furbearers is to maintain their populations primarily by use of general trapping seasons. During the 1993-

94 regular season a total of 49,099 beaver were trapped, and in 1994-95 trappers harvested 60,545, including subsidy beaver. The prices trappers received over the last several decades for beaver pelts range from a high of about \$65.00 in 1967 to lows of \$10.00 or \$12.00 in the 1980's.

Trapping season length

The season length can be varied depending on estimates of how high the beaver population is and how many beaver are to be harvested. In years when the population is high the season will be longer so that more beaver are taken. A typical season in the 1980's and 1990's ran from Mid-October through the end of April. In the 1960's, when beaver populations were quite low, the season started in February and went only until the end of March or mid-April. In the early decades of 1900 no beaver trapping was allowed because populations were critically low. The season isn't extended indefinitely because pelt primeness declines and so little trapping takes place after March. The Beaver Plan suggests that season length be adjusted depending on the beaver management zone and the target beaver population.

Liberalization of trapping regulations

Trapping regulations were liberalized in 1989 so that more beaver could be harvested during the trapping season when their pelts are prime. Liberalized rules now allow the use of snares for trapping beaver, and trapping within 15 feet of a beaver dam. For more information read the current trapping regulations pamphlet.

Contracts and permits to trap or shoot beaver

For many years the DNR has contracted with experienced trappers to remove beaver from high quality trout waters in northern Wisconsin. Contracts issued by the DNR between 1983 and 1987 resulted in the removal of 25,558 beaver causing damage to trout streams. Contracts are awarded on a bid system and are administered by a local fisheries manager. The contract requires a description of streams to be trapped, expiration time, and an activity log. Contract trapping takes place only after the regular trapping season has ended.

Beaver harvest subsidies

Trapping pressure has not been sufficient to control beaver in some areas. Subsidies have been offered to encourage removal of more beaver. A subsidy is a bonus paid for beaver taken in special areas during specific time periods. The amount of the subsidy, the location of the subsidy area, and the length of time subsidies are offered has been looked at each year and adjusted to encourage more harvest in areas where not enough beaver are trapped to meet the management zone goals. Annual implementation of a subsidy payment program is dependent on need and availability of funds. At the present the beaver subsidy is suspended pending review of program effectiveness and improvement of the department's fiscal status.

Aerial surveys

Aerial helicopter surveys are flown by DNR research staff approximately every 3 years in Beaver Management Zones A and B (the northern third of Wisconsin) to estimate beaver populations.

APHIS-ADC beaver control

The United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Animal Damage Control (USDA-APHIS-ADC) office cooperates with the DNR and local governments in cost shared efforts to intensively remove (trap and shoot) beaver and beaver dams from DNR designated high quality trout streams in northern Wisconsin. APHIS-ADC offices are listed on the next page of this pamphlet.

Landowner Options

If beaver are causing problems on your property or property for which you are responsible there are several options available. These options are spelled out in the next few pages. *Remember, the following information on controlling beaver activity applies only to beaver causing damage.*

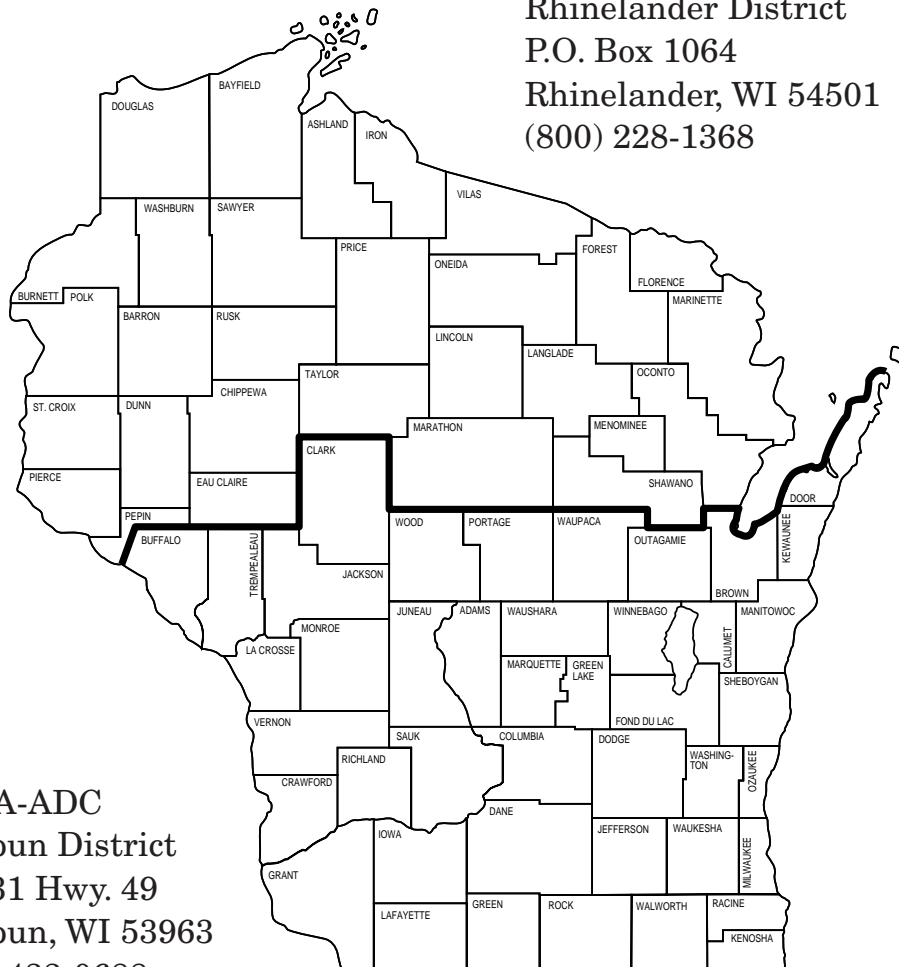
State and Federal assistance

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal Damage Control (USDA-ADC) assistance is limited to providing information to people with nui-

sance and problem beaver. WDNR and USDA-ADC have a cooperative technical assistance program which provides such assistance. This assistance includes instructional materials, pamphlets, advice, clarification of applicable laws, and referral to experience trappers or private wildlife control companies. Offices which provide these services are listed below. Neither WDNR or USDA-ADC staff will come out to a problem site and help remove beaver. There is no state damage control or compensation program which reimburses land-owners for damages caused by beaver.

USDA-ADC / WDNR nuisance wildlife technical assistance services.

USDA-ADC
Rhineland District
P.O. Box 1064
Rhineland, WI 54501
(800) 228-1368



USDA-ADC
Waupun District
W7231 Hwy. 49
Waupun, WI 53963
(800) 433-0688

First Option:

Learn to Live with Beaver

In many circumstances people who have minor beaver damage problems, such as a beaver chewing trees or ornamental plantings on a lakefront cottage lawn, may elect to do nothing. Learning to live with wildlife and enjoying and understanding the creatures that share their habitat with you may be a good way of dealing with beaver damage. Turn a problem into an opportunity! Watching beaver is a great family activity and a good way to interest children in the outdoors. Private landowners should be aware that the development of their residences in wildlife habitat is an activity that frequently results in the destruction and death of wildlife.

Understanding beaver behavior.

It's natural for beaver to chew tree trunks or to cut trees down.

Beaver rarely cut down large pines or massive old trees; they prefer willow, poplar, alder and birch. Trees that are near buildings may be cause for some anxiety if there is a danger that they'll fall on the buildings. These trees should be protectively wrapped to discourage gnawing.

Beaver rarely bite and are not aggressive. There are very few known cases of beavers carrying rabies. Other human illnesses associated with beaver are explained on page 26 of this pamphlet.

Beaver can provide many hours of "watchable wildlife" enjoyment. Their ponds create excellent wetland habitat and attract many interesting insects, birds, and mammals. Beavers build dams in order to have deep enough water for lodges and underwater food piles. If the water is already quite deep, as in a lake, they do not need to build a dam. Sometimes, instead of a lodge, they burrow into the shore and create a bank den. Beaver ponds are very important in preventing floods and drought. Beaver abandon the pond after they've used the majority of the edible foods along the shore. When their dams wash out the old pond area becomes a grassy meadow that attracts many forms of wildlife. After a few years the site may again be colonized.

For more information about beaver's life habits and biology read DNR factsheet # WM059-83 entitled *The Beaver*, available at most DNR offices.

Second Option: Protect Your Property

If you're unable to live with the damage beaver cause there are several methods available to prevent damage. One set of methods involves protecting the property receiving the damage, the other set of options discourages beaver from setting up housekeeping in your neighborhood.



Protecting trees; preventing gnawing

Chemical repellents. There are several commercially available repellents that discourage deer and rodents from chewing and browsing on plants. Although none are specifically registered for preventing beaver damage they may be used for beaver unless the label specifically limits use to another species. If the label directions allow use on trees and shrubs it is generally O.K. to use for repelling beaver. However, read all labels carefully and do not use the repellents in a manner inconsistent with their labeling.

An example of a contact (taste) repellent, ROPEL* is a bitter tasting substance that can be painted on tree trunks to discourage beaver from chewing. One gallon covers about 1 acre of 8- to 10-foot trees. Other examples of contact repellents include BIG GAME REPELLENT - DEER AWAY, MILLER'S HOT SAUCE, and Thiram products sold under the trade names BONIDE RABBIT-DEER REPELLENT, NOTT'S CHEW-NOTT, GUSTAFSON 42-S, and WILBUR-ELLIS SCRAM 42-S* among others. Two gallons of Thiram will cover 1 acre when mixed with 100 gallons of water.

Area repellents repel animals because of their strong odor. This type of repellent includes HINDER, MAGIC CIRCLE, and a variety of "home remedy" repellents like soap, blood meal, moth balls, creosote, and rotten eggs.

Repellents wash away after a time and may need to be reapplied periodically. Some repellents are very smelly and may not be practi-

* Use of a trademark name does not constitute an endorsement.

cal for use near a human dwelling. Hunger and the availability of other more palatable foods dictate the effectiveness of repellents. Experience has shown that chemical repellents provide limited success.

Many nurseries, garden centers, farm co-ops, hardware stores and discount stores sell commercial repellents. For more information on each repellent, ingredients, cost, and sources of supply read the University of Wisconsin Extension Publication #G3083 - **Controlling Deer Damage in Wisconsin** which is available from county Extension offices or from:

Agricultural Bulletin, Rm. 170
630 W. Mifflin St.
Madison, WI 53715
Phone 608-262-3346

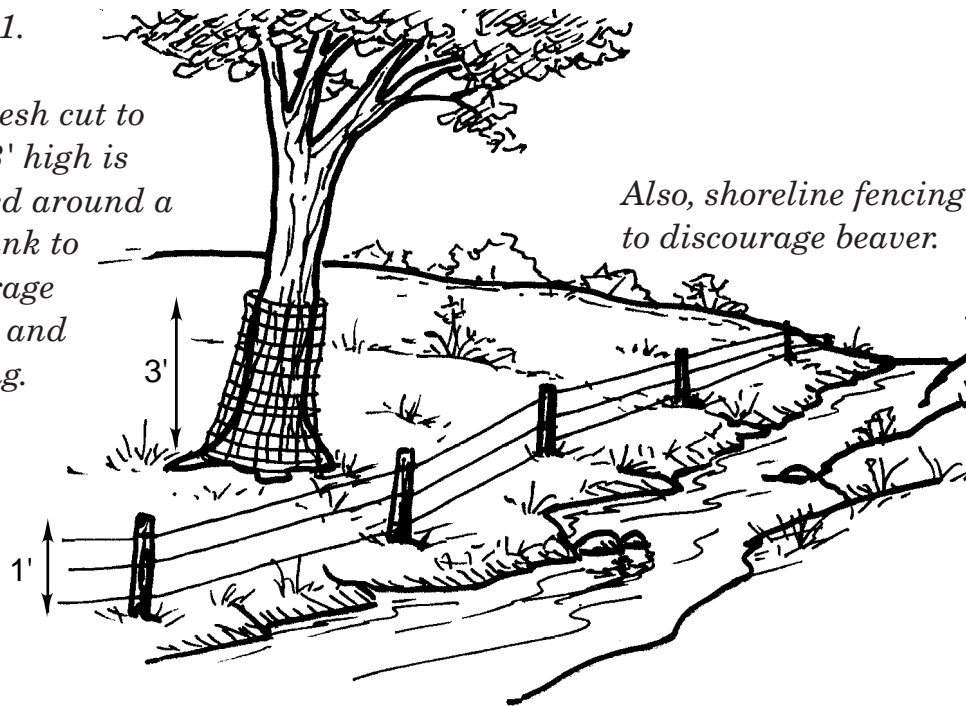
Physical barriers. Heavy wire mesh, heavy gauge hardware cloth or tar paper will discourage beaver from cutting and gnawing trees along the shoreline. Figure 1, on the next page, shows that in general the protective material you choose should be cut to a height of about 3 feet then wrapped around the tree. Mesh size should be less than 1 inch in order to be effective. The wire mesh or hardware cloth can be secured by wiring the ends together. Tar paper can be held in place by baling twine or wire. This protection is quite effective and inexpensive if few trees are involved.

Another way to keep beaver from gnawing trees or cutting them down is to fence them out. Fencing can be elaborate or simple depending on the individual situation. If you are on the premises full-time then a single strand electric fence suspended about a foot off the ground might provide the solution. If, however, you leave the property for extended periods then maintaining even a simple electric fence may not be practical.

Along the shoreline a low, attractive, permanent fence with gates may be enough to discourage beavers. An example of this type of fence is also shown in Figure 1. Also, individual, ornate fences around each tree you want to protect can be a creative way to keep beavers from gnawing.

Figure 1.

Wire mesh cut to about 3' high is wrapped around a tree trunk to discourage cutting and gnawing.



Third Option: Discourage Beaver from Colonizing

There are two main methods of discouraging beaver from colonizing an area where damage cannot be tolerated. The first is to reduce the desirability of the area by eliminating the foods beaver like and the materials they need to build dams. The second method is to alter or undermine their dams so that the dams cannot hold water.

Discouraging beaver by eliminating preferred foods

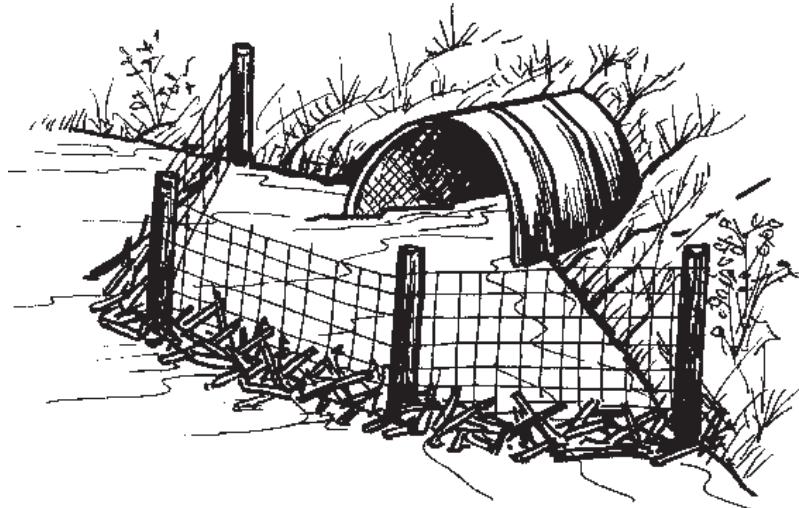
If you get rid of food items that are attractive to beaver you may discourage them from settling. Beaver prefer trees like poplar, willow, birch and alders. If your objective is to prevent flooding of a roadway or burrowing on the shoreline, then cutting down these kinds of trees eliminates food sources. Remember, if you are planting trees in areas populated by beaver you may want to plant trees/foods that are not their favorites. Good beaver-discouraging alternatives include spruce and balsam.

Discouraging beaver by undermining their dams

It is important to note the following options are not a “sure thing” and often have limited success. To increase your chance of success, regular maintenance is required.

Fencing out culvert beaver dams. Beaver often plug road culverts with dams. This problem can sometimes be solved by building a horseshoe shaped fence around the upstream side of the culvert thus preventing the beaver from damming the culvert entrance. Beaver may build their dam around the fence but it is much easier to remove debris from the fence rather than from the inside of the culvert. Figure 2 shows a typical fence constructed around a culvert. The cost of this method of abating beaver damage depends on the size of the fence needed. A typical list of materials might include 30 ft. wire with 6" x 6" squares and 4 to 6 posts.

Figure 2. A fencing scheme to keep beaver from building dams inside culverts.

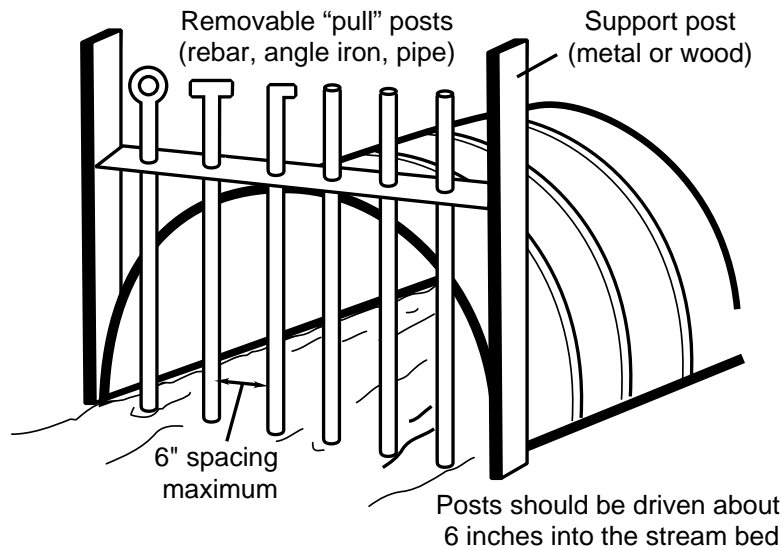


Beaver baffle for culverts. A baffle can be constructed to keep beaver from building dams inside culverts. Figure 3 shows an example of a baffle. Beaver will build the dam against the posts but when the majority of the dam material is removed and the posts are pulled the dam should wash out. This type of abatement may require frequent tending. For small culverts one or two pull posts should do the job. A bend or hook on top of the pull posts will make it easier to lift out the posts using some type of puller. To prevent theft of the pull posts you may want to consider devising an anti-theft bar for the baffle.

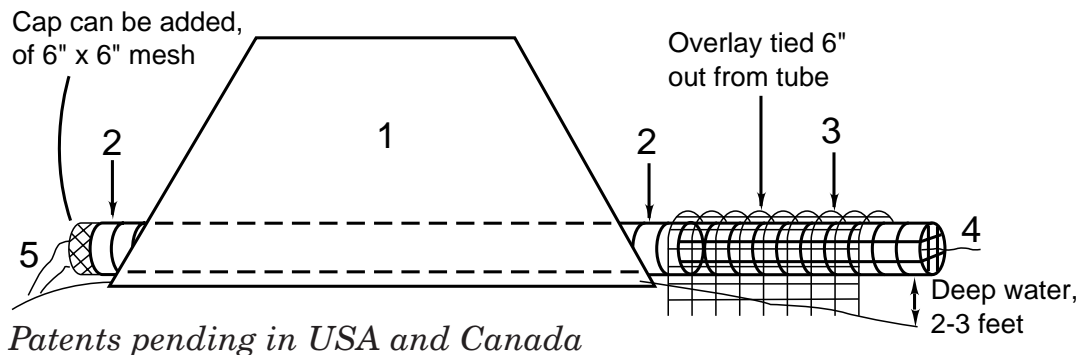
There are many variations of the beaver baffle depending on the needs, ingenuity, and materials available. The cost of the baffle varies depending on the number of posts, the material you chose for the posts, and the cost of any welding you might need.

Undermining dams (cont').

Figure 3. Beaver Baffle for preventing dams in culverts and for easier removal of dams.



The Thurber Woven Wire Baffle



Legend:

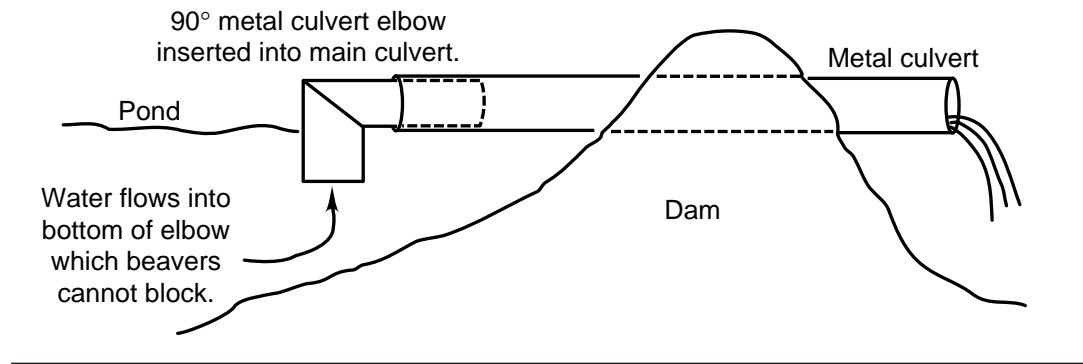
1. Road, railroad, dam or other manmade structure.
2. Culvert or conduit through structure to allow water flow.
3. Restricting device.
4. Water flowing into culvert or conduit.
5. Water flow downstream of culvert or conduit.

For more information about the Thurber Beaver Stop (TM)*, contact Neil Thurber, Beaver Stop Consulting, Inc., 3219 Coleman Road, NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2L 1G6. Phone: (403) 282-6136.

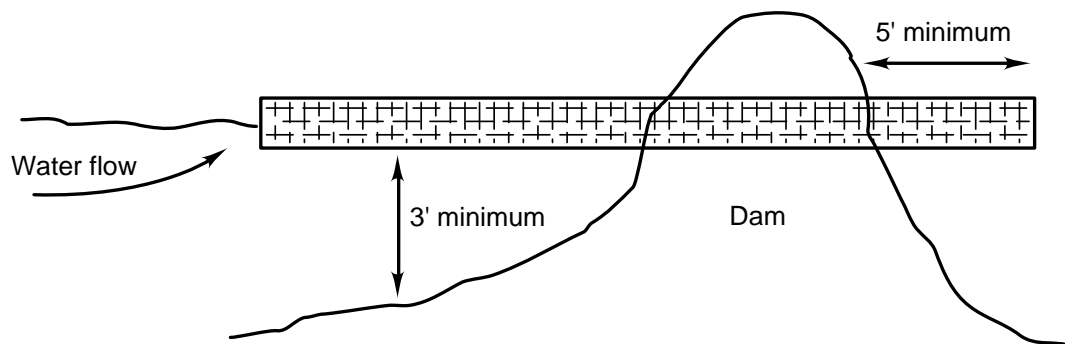
* Use of a trademark name or mentioning the name of a company does not constitute an endorsement.

Controlling water levels with “beaver pipes.” Water levels in beaver ponds can be regulated so that, although the pond remains, the water level is not so high that it causes damage. Or, if the beaver cannot keep the water level high, they may get discouraged and move to a new sight. Figure 4 shows an elbow extension on a culvert through a dam. The figure also shows a wire mesh culvert. These methods assume that beaver can’t figure out how to dam water flow in these devices.

Figure 4. Elbow extension and wire mesh culvert in beaver dams.



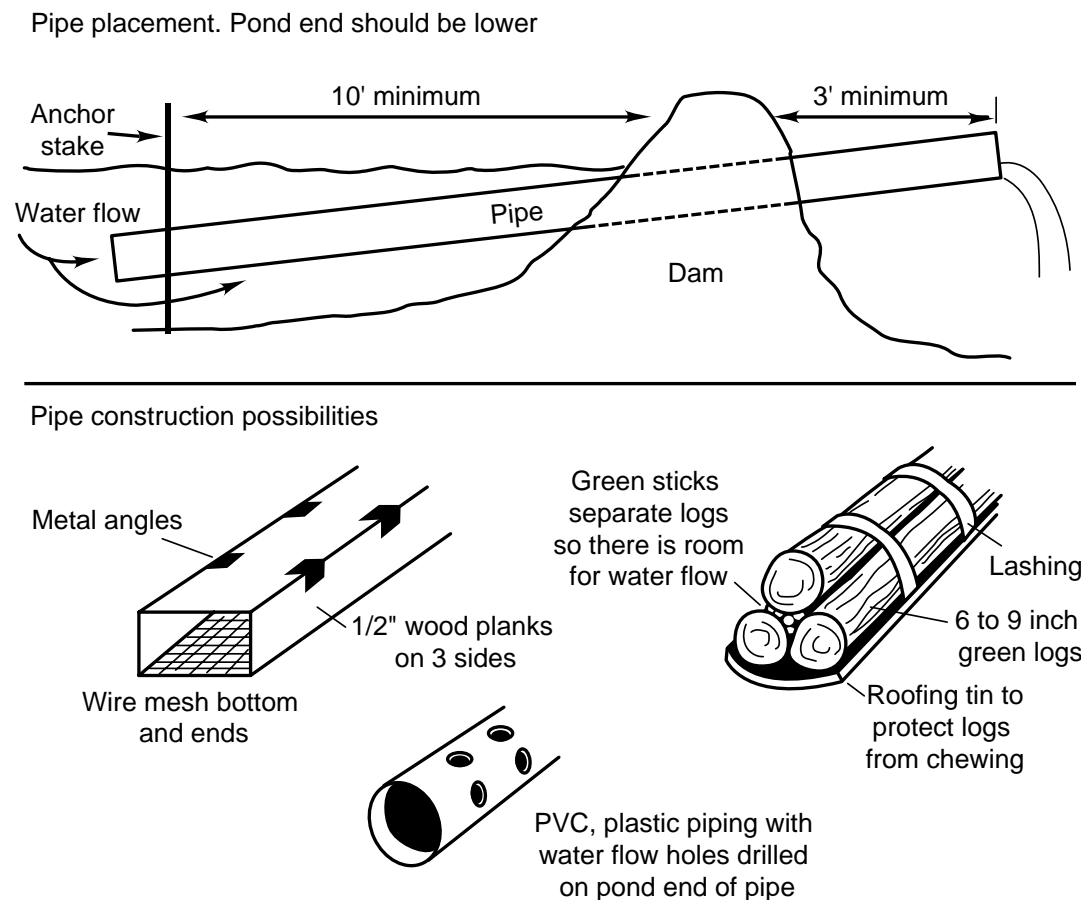
Culvert constructed of #6 gauge reinforcing mesh panel (10' x 5' piece) covered with #4 gauge, 1"-2" welded wire mesh, attached with #1 hog rings. Bend assembled panel into a cylinder and fasten with #3 hog rings. Cover inlet end with 6" x 6" wire mesh. Three sections (30') are considered a minimum length.

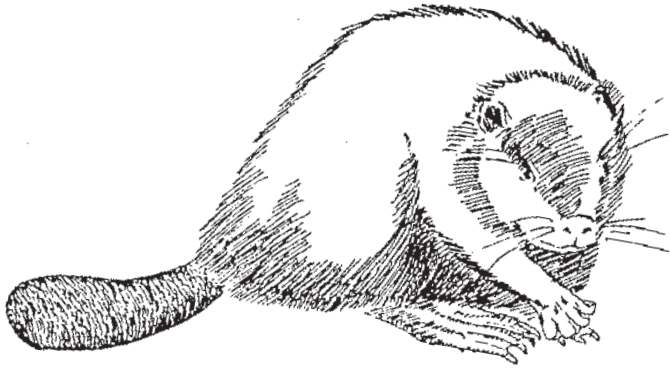


Undermining dams (cont')

Figure 5 shows a method of installing pipes or troughs in beaver dams in order to control the water level in the pond. Several possible pipe construction methods are also shown. Details of “beaver pipe” construction are found in the article “A Device For Control Of Problem Beavers” (Journal of Wildlife Management, Vol. 27, No. 3, July 1963, by H.A. Laramie). The costs include lumber to make the pipes (or the cost of PVC piping) and labor to install them. This is a more difficult device to install than a fence or baffle, however, it may be the only option where there is no culvert to use as a “backstop”. Most landowners do not resort to this method unless the damage is substantial.

Figure 5. Beaver Pipes used to control water levels behind a beaver dam.





One last beaver pipe design is the Clemson Beaver Pond Leveler. It was developed at Clemson University in South Carolina. It is a simple, low cost device that allows water to flow through a beaver dam or plugged culvert. It is made largely from PVC pipe. It can be very effective in reducing flooding in certain situations, such as a beaver dam built in a culvert or at the outlet of a small pond.

Beavers repair dams in response to the sight, sound and feel of running water. The Clemson leveler transports water through a dam in such a way that beavers can't see, hear, or feel it and as a result, beavers don't attempt to plug the dam.

The intake device is the key component of the leveler. It is placed on the bottom of the pond, ditch or stream upstream from the dam. The intake device consists of a 10' long piece of 10" diameter PVC pipe with about 160 2" holes drilled along its length. The PVC pipe is suspended in the center of 30" diameter woven wire tube (the wire keeps beavers away from the pipe and therefore the source of the leak in their dam). The intake device is connected with a reducer to a section of 8" diameter PVC pipe that runs through the dam. Attached to this pipe is flexible PVC pipe that carries water at least 20' below the dam.

To receive a detailed pamphlet on construction of the Clemson Beaver Pond Leveler*, contact: Wildlife Damage Program, Minnesota DNR, 1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401 (218-828-2427). To order a Clemson lever, contact MINNCOR Industries, 2855 Anthony Lane South, Suite 200, St. Anthony, MN 55418.

* Use of a trademark name or mentioning the name of a company does not constitute an endorsement.

Last Option: Removal of the Dam, Lodge and Beaver

Removal of the beaver dam, the lodge, and the beaver is generally the last option recommended for the individual landowner because of the difficulty and expense involved. Another reason removal is a last resort is because often new beaver will recolonize an area from which beaver were removed. The problem of beaver damage may be solved temporarily, but it will probably reappear in a few years.

The laws and frequently asked questions relating to dam removal, lodge removal, and removal of the beaver themselves are found in the next section.

Legal Definitions in Beaver Control

(References: s.29.59 (1) stats. and NR12.0001)

Damage means harm to forest products; streams; roads; dams; buildings; orchards; and commercial agricultural crops, including Christmas trees and nursery stock.

Daylight hours means the time from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

Molest means any activity which results in physical damage or destruction of an object.

Private property holder means an owner, lessee or occupant of private property.

Removal activity means removing or authorizing the removal of a wild animal that is causing damage or that is causing a nuisance or the removal of a structure of a wild animal that is causing damage or that is causing a nuisance.

Remove means capture, shoot, set a trap for, relocate, or otherwise destroy or dispose of.



Laws for Landowners

In the next few sections concerning dams, lodges, and removal of beaver, the pertinent state statutes (cited in references as “stats.”) or Natural Resources administrative code (cited in references as “NR”) are given as references so that you may find and read the exact text if you’re interested. Be sure to use the *most current* versions of the statutes and rules if you are checking further into a specific question. Copies of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Administrative Code and the Wisconsin State Statutes are available at most libraries. References are given in the following format: Chapter. section (paragraph) (subparagraph). For example, NR12.10 (b)(3) can be found in Wis. Natural Resources Administrative Code Chapter 12, section .10, paragraph (b), subparagraph (3).

Beaver Dam Removal Laws

Am I allowed to remove a beaver dam on my land?

Landowners, lessees, or occupants may remove beaver dams causing damage or a nuisance without any sort of permit, permission or authorization from the DNR. (Reference: NR12.10 (b)(3)).

How can I remove a dam?

One way to remove a dam is by blasting. All blasters in Wisconsin must be licensed. You may hire licensed blasters to remove a dam on your property; they usually charge less than \$50 to remove a dam. Their fee typically includes the cost of the explosives (about \$20 per dam). To obtain a list of licensed blasters or to get more information call the Department of Industry, Labor, and Human Relations in Madison at (608) 266-7529. Hiring a blaster with beaver dam experience is recommended. Blasters are not required to carry insurance. Prudent landowners should check their insurance policy for coverage of any damage caused to downstream property from the released pond water as well as any accidental injuries.

Note: explosives cannot be used to kill or remove beaver; however, explosives may be used to remove their structures, including dams and *vacated* lodges. You should be aware that unless the beaver have been removed from this area they are likely to return to rebuild.

An alternative to blasting dams is to tear them out using hand tools (a shovel & pick) or a backhoe. However, this is quite difficult and time consuming and is usually not as complete a removal as blasting.

Do I need a permit to remove a dam from a neighbor's land?

No, you don't need any DNR permits to remove a dam on neighboring land. State statute s. 88.90(3) indicates that an occupant of lands damaged by flooding caused by "natural causes" on a "natural water course" on the property owned by another may enter upon those lands and remove the obstruction at the damage party's own expense. This statute states that this is not trespass. The DNR maintains that it is always good practice to seek consent and permission from your neighbor to remove a beaver dam on their property. If you are considering entering the property of another according to provisions of s. 88.90(3) we suggest you first consult your attorney. Furthermore, you should be aware that this statute does not authorize removal of beaver, only the obstruction, namely the dam. Please keep in mind that removal of the dam will not solve the problem. We hope neighbors will cooperate in solving legitimate problems.

Just what do the terms "landowner" and "lessee" mean?

"Landowner" means any person over 18 years of age and any partnership, firm or corporation that holds title to land whether or not this land is subject to easement, mortgage, lien, lease or restrictive covenant, except that this term does not include any person who is under guardianship, a person who is incompetent or a person who is mentally ill. A person, partnership, firm or corporation holds title to the land if they have any of the following titles: sole owner, joint owner, owner of an undivided interest, sole or joint trustee or sole or joint consignee. Land contract holders are considered landowners.

"Lessee" means any person possessing a written lease for the use of land for the production of commercial seedlings, crops, orchard trees, Christmas trees, nursery stock, honey, and livestock. It doesn't include a person who rents a home or lands for reasons other than commercial production of crops.

Who can authorize dam removal from corporate or publicly owned land where beaver are causing damage?

The board or governing body of the corporation should designate one

person responsible for authorization of beaver removal activities. Their signature must appear on any permission given to agents of the corporation who are on the corporation's property for removal activities. Typically, a town chairperson or county supervisor is assigned this responsibility.

Can I enlist other people to help me remove beaver dams, do they need any sort of permit?

Yes, you can hire someone or have unpaid help to remove dams on your property. People who assist in removal activities don't need any permits from the DNR but they must possess written authorization from you, the landowner, when conducting dam removal activities on your property. (Reference: NR 12.10 (3)(c))

Am I liable for damages a beaver dam on my property causes to the property of another?

Yes. The law states "A person who owns, leases or occupies property on which a beaver or a beaver structure is causing damage and who fails or refuses to give consent to the DNR to remove the beaver or the structure is liable for any damage caused by beaver or the structure to public property or the property of others." (Reference: s. 29.59 (6) Stats). DNR staff would not actually remove the dam. That is the responsibility of the neighbor who wants it removed.

Can I set traps on a dam?

Only the landowner or his or her family members may set a trap on a beaver dam. This privilege cannot be transferred from the landowner to an agent or employee; the landowner cannot authorize another person to trap on a beaver dam. The exception to this is where the landowner is a corporation or municipality. In these situations an employee or elected or appointed official is legally considered a part of the "landowner" entity and may set a trap on a beaver dam (Reference NR10.13 (1)(b) 5).

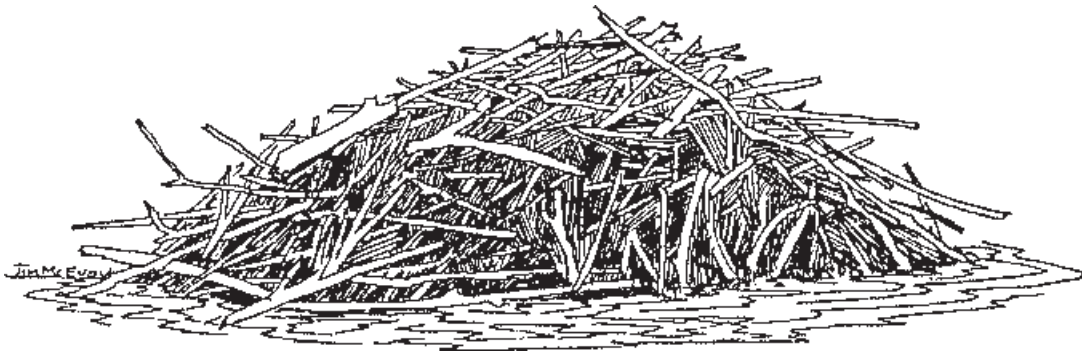
Am I liable for injuries sustained by people helping me to remove beaver dams?

The law dealing with this question gives some protection to the landowner. The statutes outline responsibilities of a property owner for the well-being of anyone entering the property solely to engage in

a removal activity. “Private property holder” is defined as including officers, employees and agents.

The landowner owes none of the following duties to a person removing beaver or their structures: to keep the property safe for removal activities, or to inspect the property; or give warning of any unsafe condition, use or activity on the property. In addition, the private property holder is not liable for an injury to a person engaging in a removal activity, or an injury caused by a person engaging in a removal activity.

The landowner is liable for injuries caused by malicious acts and malicious failure to warn against an unsafe condition on the property of which the owner has knowledge. They are also liable for injuries sustained by an employee of the property holder acting within the scope of his or her duties. (Reference: s. 29.59 (7)(a)(b) and (d) stats.)



Beaver Lodge & Beaver Removal Laws

Can I remove a lodge?

Yes. However, nobody can use explosives to remove an **active** beaver lodge. Written authorization from the DNR is required before a **vacated** beaver lodge may be removed. After receiving written authorization from the DNR, a licensed Wisconsin blaster may, at the landowner’s directive, use explosives to remove vacated beaver lodges. (Reference s. 29.60 (3) and 29.59 (2)(b) stats.). Note: explosives cannot be used to kill or remove beaver; however, explosives may be used to remove their structures.

In addition, written authorization from the DNR is required to mechanically remove a beaver lodge or modify a lodge to facilitate removal of the beaver.

How will it be determined that a lodge is vacated?

DNR personnel may ask for proof that at least several beaver have been shot or trapped from this lodge. They may check to see that there is no recent beaver activity near the lodge.

Can I trap on a beaver lodge?

Anyone may trap on, in or around a beaver lodge. There is no longer a 15 foot setback.

Can I remove beaver from my land without a permit?

Yes, landowners, lessees, and occupants are not required to have a DNR permit to remove beaver causing damage on lands under their control. Removal activities can take place year-round. For a landowner, lessee, or occupant to receive assistance from an agent they must give such a person written authorization (Reference: NR 12.10).

What beaver removal methods are allowed?

Landowners may shoot or trap beaver causing damage or a nuisance on their own property. Live-trapping is also allowed. (Reference: NR 12.10 (1)(b)) There are no restrictions on the caliber of firearms that are allowed. A 12-gauge shotgun utilizing #2 or #3 steel shot is an effective choice for shooting beaver. Use extreme caution when shooting near water; bullets and shotgun pellets ricochet easily! Unless exempted you must comply with shooting hours - one half hour before sunrise to 0.25 hour past sunset. No use of artificial lights is allowed. You must abide by all other hunting and trapping rules listed in the regulations pamphlets unless you receive written or verbal exemptions from the DNR. The pamphlet rules include information regarding size of traps, placement, frequency of checking traps, and type of sets.

You can't shoot beaver if your property is within a municipality where the discharge of firearms is illegal unless you obtain a permit from the local municipality.

You may not set a trap within 100 yards of any building devoted to human occupancy without the owner's consent.

You may NOT remove beaver by using explosives, poison, or poison gas. (Reference s.29.60 stats.) When the trapping season is closed you may not use any bait or scent. (Reference NR 10.13 (b)(2)).

Do I need a hunting or trapping license to remove beaver?

No, the owner or occupant of any land, and any member of his or her family over 12 years of age may hunt or trap beaver on land they control without a license at any time. However, no hunting is allowed in the 24 hours prior to the opening date for deer hunting. (Reference s.29.24 stats.)

Can I get other people to assist me in removing beaver causing damage?

The landowner may invite others to assist (participate) in the removal of beaver causing damage or nuisance as long as the following rules are observed:

- 1) All people assisting in beaver removal must have a valid small game or sports license if they plan to shoot beaver.
- 2) All people assisting in beaver removal must have a valid trapping license if they plan to remove beaver by trapping.
- 3) All assistants or participants shall possess written approval from the landowner or lessee when carrying on removal activities.

The landowner, lessee or occupant may not charge any form of a fee to a person providing removal assistance.

The landowner cannot exempt an assistant from having a license.

Landowners cannot give permission to an assistant to trap on a dam. (Reference NR 10.13 (b)(5)). (NOTE: The term “landowner authority” in the reference cited here means the authority granted by the state to the landowner in section 29.24. It does **not** mean authority or permission a landowner may grant to another person.) However, an assistant can use methods other than those listed in the hunting and trapping regulations with the written or verbal permission of the DNR.

All participants shall meet the requirements of the statutes pertaining to hunter safety and age.

All assistants must abide by the hunting and trapping regulations. Copies of the regulations are available at the local DNR office.

Can I remove beaver if I am a not a Wisconsin resident?

Yes, as long as you do not trap beaver on property other than your own. Non-residents may not purchase a Wisconsin trapping license and therefore are not eligible to assist other property owners.

If you plan to shoot beaver on property you do not own you must have a valid non-resident small game license.

Where can I release a live-trapped beaver?

You may not release or relocate beaver to DNR owned lands unless you have a permit from the local wildlife manager. (Reference NR 12.10(b)(2)). You do not need a permit to release a beaver on non-DNR controlled lands; however, you should obtain permission from the landowner where the beaver are to be released. Call the local DNR manager to locate possible release sites.

You may purchase live traps from the following sources:

Tomahawk Live Trap Company
P.O. Box 323
Tomahawk, WI 54487
(715) 453-3550

Hancock Trap Co.
P.O. Box 268
Custer, SD 57730
(605) 673-4128

National Live Trap Corp.
Route 1
Box 302
Tomahawk, WI 54487
(715) 453-2249

In most cases live-trapping and relocating beaver is not a good idea. Relocation may be less humane than killing beaver if they do not have time to store food or build a dam before winter or if the new location's habitat cannot support them.

You may not keep a live beaver as a pet.

How much does it cost to have a beaver trapped?

Most trappers you can hire will charge between \$25-\$30 for each beaver they catch. A colony typically has 5 or 6 beaver. If all the beaver are not removed then the remaining individuals will continue

to fell trees and build dams. There is no guarantee that even if you remove all the beaver from a site it will not be re-colonized the following year.

Where can I get a list of beaver trappers?

Contact your local Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA) district directors or local DNR office and ask for the book entitled *WTA Animal Damage Control Trapper List*, Rev. 2-96. Addresses for WTA district directors are listed on page 25 of this pamphlet.

How can I learn how to trap?

All beginning trappers who have not purchased a trapping license in the past are required to complete the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP) prior to trapping. Persons exempt from this requirement must have purchased a trapping license in the past. This course teaches trapping ethics and responsibilities, proper trapping techniques, proper pelt preparation, marketing, basic furbearer ecology and management, and trapping history. The Wisconsin Trapper's Association administers the program in cooperation with the WDNR. The class is taught by certified instructors at locations in many communities throughout the state. Trappers interested in attend the program should consult the most recent Wisconsin Trapping Regulations pamphlet produced by WDNR for further information.

A listing of organizations that offer non-lethal control follows.

Organizations Offering Non-Lethal Beaver Control

Alliance for Animals
111 King St. #26
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 257-6333

P.E.T.A.
P.O. Box 42516
Washington, D.C. 20015
(301) 770-7444

Castorville Wildlife Preserve
655 O'Neil Rd.
Hudson, WI 54016

Fund for Animals, Inc.
Suite LL2
850 Scigo Avenue
Silver Springs, MD 20910
(301) 585-2591

Friends of Beaversprite
P.O. Box 591
Little Falls, NY 13365

WTA District Directors List

DISTRICT 1

Tony Kerner
Rt. 10, Box 185
Hayward 54843
(715) 634-4029

DISTRICT 2

Dave Otto
1681 Church Road
Star Prairie 54026
(715) 248-7317

DISTRICT 3

Sonny Reader
Eagle River 54521
(715) 479-7326

DISTRICT 4

Bill Chaplinsky
W5713 Willow Lane
Porterfield 54149
(715) 789-2650

DISTRICT 5

Steve Sievwright
Route 1, Box 1653
Durand 54736
(715) 672-4370

DISTRICT 6

Myron Leis
Route 1, Box 183
Norwalk 54648
(608) 823-7939

DISTRICT 7

Scott Zimmerman
W9209 Bobolink Road
Reeseville 53579
(414) 682-8572

DISTRICT 8

Dan Destree
7314 Hwy B
Two Rivers 54241
(414) 637-5315

DISTRICT 9

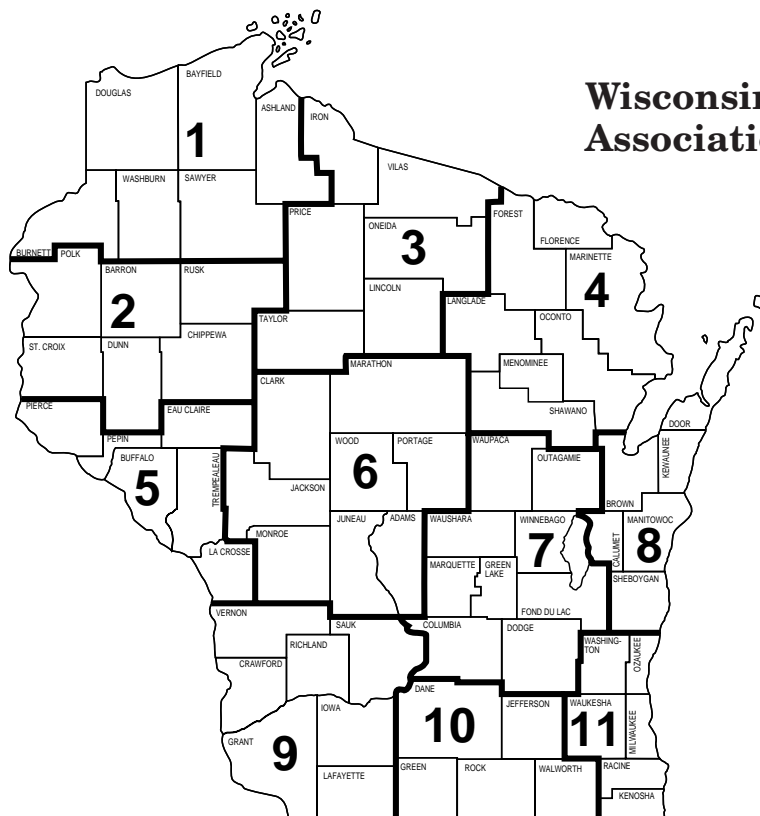
Marcus Bresee
855 Garfield
Fennimore 53809
(608) 822-6177

DISTRICT 10

Earl Weisensel
2025 Sherman Avenue
Madison 53704
(608) 241-1378

DISTRICT 11

Paul Yankech
1105 Carlton Drive
Racine 53402
(414) 637-5315



**Wisconsin Trappers
Association Districts**

Health Notes

You should be aware of several illnesses associated with people working around beaver dams. Two diseases which are relatively rare, but nonetheless are present around dams and ponds are tularemia and blastomycosis. A third illness, giardiasis (gee-are-die-a-sis), is more common but not as debilitating as the first two.

Tularemia (“rabbit fever”) is contracted by direct contact of human skin with the blood or tissues of infected animals (the bacteria can penetrate intact skin). The bacteria causing the disease, *Francisella tularensis*, can also be contracted by drinking contaminated pond water. The symptoms include headaches, chills, vomiting, fever, aches and pains, skin lesions, and swollen glands. Wearing gloves while working around beaver or their structures can reduce the chances of contracting tularemia.

Blastomycosis is a fungal disease of the lungs contracted by breathing in spores that are present in forest soils. Isolated cases of blastomycosis have been linked to beaver dams. If you are tearing apart and disturbing a beaver dam on a dry day when a lot of dust is present you may be exposed to the blastomycosis spores. One symptom of blastomycosis is a pneumonia-like persistent cough.

Giardiasis is an intestinal illness that causes chronic diarrhea. It is contracted by ingestion of food or water contaminated by feces of large mammals like humans, dogs, cats, deer, and beaver. It occurs in the water of beaver ponds because of the concentration of animals there. It also occurs where human feces are not disposed of in a sanitary manner. It is prevented by not drinking the water from beaver ponds.

For more information on any of these illnesses contact your local public health official.



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